

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2013

Denna kortrapport är skriven av Arati Davis vid Tillväxtanalys kontor i New Delhi och är en del av Tillväxtanalys löpande omvärldsanalyssupdrag.

The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) (Jan 31st-Feb 2nd 2013), hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) since 2001, continues to be a seminal event in the climate calendar for India and the South. It is a global forum that seeks to provide a common platform for heads of state, government, dignitaries, as well as civil society to discuss issues of concern regarding environmental policy. TERI occupies a unique position in the landscape of environment and climate – both in India as well as globally.

TERI's Director General, Dr. R. K. Pachauri position as part of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as a member of the Government of India's National Climate Change Committee, tasked with preparing an action plan for India for the coming years gives special importance to the annual DSDS events, and the opportunities for translation from national dialogue to international action.

Although the focus has traditionally been on adaptation activities i.e. sustainable livelihoods, agriculture and frugal technology, it has recently become a meeting place for positions on more mitigation centered issues i.e. **energy systems, the value of innovation in the context of climate change, and sustainable urban development.**

The message from DSDS this year is one of technology transfer for resource efficiency. The Prime Minister, in his opening remarks commented on the close relationship between economics and the environment. He stressed the need for countries like India to look for ways to re-engineer the economy, using innovative and frugal technology.

DSDS, understood to be the Davos of South Asia, sets the tone for the upcoming budget discussions, and is a strong indicator of the Government's mindset on issues

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of environment and energy. **This year the focus has been on the water-energy nexus**, the role of depleting groundwater resources, combined with the high level of energy consumption taken by the agricultural sector. **Resource efficiency, along with increased attention needed for investment in energy efficiency infrastructure was put forward** by many of the representatives present.

The Summit, in addition to focusing on high level inputs from over 120 countries, dealt with the core themes of the energy-water nexus, **low carbon growth and the role of innovation, and developing a new economic construct for emerging markets** that face the challenge of the balance between economic growth and sustainable development.

India's low carbon growth plan, as well the upcoming Budget is expected to reflect the concerns put forward at DSDS 2013, on the costs of investment into energy efficient infrastructure and the importance of leveraging financing.